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"Before the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce on April 17, I spoke, after lunch, in terms which seem to have become somewhat controversial in the British press.

My speech gave, I hope, an impression of being extemporaneous. For much of it, I followed substantially, but without reading it, the following prepared text:

(Text of notes quoted)

"Before the luncheon, the key officers of the Chamber of Commerce had said that an expression of my views on the Common Market would be of especial interest to the audience, and would I not deliver them in connection with the U.K. application to join the Six.

This I did, but not, I believe, in so incoherent and ungrammatical a fashion as reported in the Daily Mail, whose 'Stringer' like others present, obviously ignorant of shorthand, must have struggled to pluck, several sentences later, excerpts from what I was in course of saying, like a one-legged man running after a horse.

You have, no doubt, received the AP report, again presumably made by a Stringer, but which (according to my recollection, for I have not got it before me) though in a limited way, as to content is generally accurate.

Perhaps, as is natural, the most faithful rendition of my rambling observations, which I must say were unaccountably received with applause or merriment by those present, was that published by the Birmingham Post, in this morning's edition. I assume that its reporter was the only bona-fide, full time press representative on hand.

The Post's account was:

(Quoted)

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